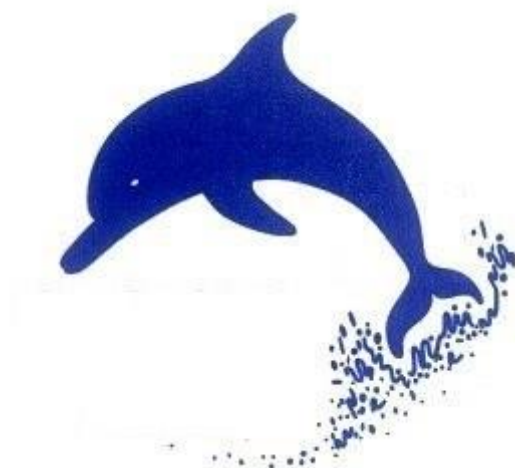




16/05/2025

Headteacher Message





Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had here at Stone Bay! Our students have been busy with a range of wonderful activities, from showing exceptional kindness to each other to naming our new feathered friends in the school garden. We're thrilled to announce that the chickens now have names, thanks to the creative votes from our students. Welcome to Eggatha, Henrietta, Lemon, Snowball, Mabel, and Nugget – our new clucking companions!

This week, we also celebrated **Kindness Day**, and it was heartwarming to see the positive interactions and thoughtful gestures across all classes:

- **Seagull Class** practiced turn-taking and sharing, creating a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for everyone.
- **Falcon Class** made Seagull pupils feel incredibly welcomed and included – a big thank you to them for embodying the spirit of kindness so well!

- **Chaffinch Class** focused on acts of kindness like giving hugs, saying kind things, smiling, waving, and helping each other out. They also made presents to share with friends.
- **Crow Class** created thoughtful pictures and crafted special gifts from Lego or clay to give to each other, spreading joy and appreciation.
- **Heron Class** had a great time playing together in the park and participating in kindness-themed activities in the classroom.
- **Starling Class** made beautiful kindness cards for every member of Crow Class, including the teachers – a simple yet powerful way to brighten someone's day.
- **Kingsgate Class** took kindness to another level by making drinks for each other and staff, asking what they would like, and serving with a smile. It was a lovely moment of connection and care!

In addition to the kindness-themed activities, Kingsgate students also explored the concept of family, sharing photos and using PECS or verbal communication to tell their peers about their families. It was truly wonderful to see the students proudly displaying their family photos and engaging in meaningful conversations about loved ones.

A very special thank you goes out to **Jayne and Jenny**, two of our dedicated teachers who generously volunteered their time to support our students and their families on what was truly a holiday of a lifetime. Their care and commitment to our pupils were evident throughout, and we are so grateful to have them as part of the Stone Bay team.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to **Kayleigh and Gary** (Thor's mum and grandad) for connecting us with the wonderful charity **The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes**, who made this unforgettable holiday possible. Their kindness and generosity brought so much joy to our children and families, and we are immensely appreciative of their support. You can learn more about the incredible work this charity does by visiting their website [here](#).

As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We are so proud of our Stone Bay students for embracing kindness and creating a positive school environment and so Grateful to have such excellent staff and wonderful families.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and hopefully a warm one, Jane





## Summer Fete



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to announce that our **Summer Fete** will be held on **Saturday 5th July 10-2pm**, and we need **your help** to make it a success!

Whether you can spare an hour to help set up, run a stall, or assist with clearing up at the end of the day, your support would be hugely appreciated.

If you're able to lend a hand, please contact the school office on 01843 863421 or email [office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk) and we shall contact you next term.

If you are not able to help but can support in other ways such as donations for the Tombola, plants to sell, we would be very grateful.

With your help, let's make this year's fete the best yet!

Thank you for your continued support,



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

## GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

## ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

## PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

## ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

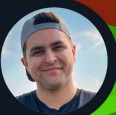
Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

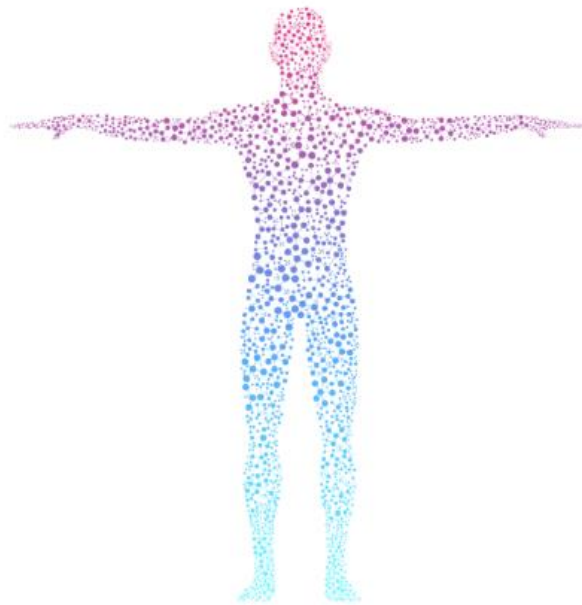
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.05.2025



## A word cloud shaped like a graduation cap (mortarboard). The words are arranged to fit the silhouette of the cap. The most prominent words, shown in larger fonts, include 'SCHOOL', 'PUNCTUALITY', 'ATTENDANCE', 'LEARNING', 'ON TIME', and 'TIME'. Other visible words include 'PUN', 'ATTEN', 'SCHOOL', 'LEARN', 'TIME', 'PUNCT', 'ATTENDANCE', 'ON', 'THE', 'TIME', 'PUN', 'ATTEN', 'SCHOOL', 'LEARN', 'TIME', 'PUNCT', 'ATTENDANCE', 'ON', 'THE', 'TIME'. The colors of the words vary, including shades of blue, green, yellow, and red.

This weeks attendance was 92% 🏆☆☆

## INTEROCEPTION CURRICULUM



All class teams have now completed their initial training in Interoception.

Interoception is the sense that allows us to notice our body signals, like a growling stomach, racing heart, tense muscles or full bladder. When we notice these body signals, our brain uses them as clues to our emotions.

Interoception helps us to feel many important emotions such as calm, pain or anxiety.

Differences in Interoception are very common and lead to challenges and confusion about how somebody is feeling. Our pupils' interoceptive awareness can be over or under sensitive or distorted. This can mean that they may experience stronger or weaker feelings or that they are confused about how they are feeling.

The good news is, we can help because Interoceptive Awareness is highly changeable!

We can support our pupils with practicing body awareness and modelling and teaching the language to describe body sensations and feeling.

With that we are working towards:

## NOTICING BODY SIGNALS -> UNDERSTANDING FEELINGS BETTER -> LINKING THIS TO HELPFUL ACTIONS

NOTICE	CONNECT	REGULATE
What body signals do I notice right now?	What do these body signals mean? What emotion am I experiencing?	What action do i need to take to either keep the comfort or restore the comfort within my body?
BODY	EMOTION	ACTION

Class teams are now including Interoceptive Awareness Builders into their day.

These are fun practical activities and experiments that focus on one part of the body.

At the moment our focus are hands and fingers. We are using our hands and fingers for lots of things throughout the day and pupils are experiencing temperature, pressure, texture etc.

Staff model lots of different words to describe all the different feelings we can have in our hands. You can have a go at home, too!

Have a go at one of our 'daily activities' and talk about how it makes your hands and fingers feel.

Soon we will move on to different body parts and we will let you know so you can continue joining in at home.



<b>COLD</b> 	<b>WARM</b> 	<b>TIGHT</b> 	<b>LOOSE</b> 
<b>SQUEEZING</b> 	<b>FAST</b> 	<b>SLOW</b> 	<b>SWEATY</b> 
<b>DRY</b> 	<b>MESSY</b> 	<b>CLEAN</b> 	<b>SORE</b> 



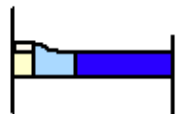



### 🕒 DAILY ACTIVITY LIST 🕒

Below is a list of everyday activities that can serve as ideal times to use the above prompts.  
Use these or add your own.

Hand washing	Eating finger foods	Playing with clay or playdough	Playing in a sensory bin	Playing in the snow or rain	Going outside in hot/cold weather	Hanging on monkey bars	Climbing on playground equipment
Catching a ball	Writing on paper	Typing	Washing dishes	Holding a warm/cold drink	Doing a cartwheel or handstand	Carrying a heavy load	Putting on hand lotion

Signs of the week



 <p>pyjamas</p>	 <p>Hands move down to show top, then mime pulling bottoms up</p> <p>pyjamas</p>
 <p>bed</p>	 <p>bed</p>
 <p>sleep</p>	 <p>sleep</p>

Spotlight on Kingfisher class



This term our topic is Dinosaurs!

We have been learning how to request ingredients for dinosaur habitat trays, how to take turns in stage 3 attention autism sessions, how to look after our bodies in this lovely sunny weather, what makes us feel calm and happy and much, much more!

We are reading the book *How to Look After Your Dinosaur* by Jason Cockcroft. We have particularly enjoyed opening sensory eggs to hatch dinosaurs and giving them baths.

We are developing our rights by exercising our rights to play, participate in cultural and creative arts, (article 31) and to actively participate in the community (article 23) through contributing to the whole-school flower display.

This week, our school has been taking part in a walking challenge. We have been thoroughly enjoying taking part in the Daily Mile with the rest of the school community; doing this every morning has helped us make sure we stay fit and healthy. We have also joined other classes across the school to go for walks and trips to Ramsgate Leisure Centre.

The best thing about being in our class is playing together - from secret handshakes to exploring sensory trays, water play in the class garden and outdoor play equipment, there is always something new and exciting to discover when we are together.

Next term, we are learning about keeping fit, just in time to train for Sports Day!

















We are a [UNICEF](#) rights respecting school



## Star of the week



STONE BAY STAR			
CONGRATULATIONS TO			
18/03/2025	Parakeet	Arthur	For growing in confidence when asking for adult support with toileting, and using his words more.
	Kingfisher	Joseph, Honour and Hope	Excellent sharing of tuff trays this week.
	Heron	Lucas E	For exploring new activities this week.
	Woodpecker	Itans	For accepting more adult support to explore different regulation tools.
	Chaffinch	Elliot	For excellent work with his maths.
	Crow	Ehab	For excellent behaviour in the community.
	Kestrel	Callum	For accepting changes and drinking from a cup.
	Starling	John	For practicing his fine motor skills, especially using scissors.
	Falcon	Michael	Fantastic musical skills. Following music and keeping up the pace.
	Owl	Brendan	For using his initiative to tidy up after a learning activity.
	Red Kite	Harry	For making great sentences on his CSCB board.
	Seagull	Ruby and Teagan	Ruby for working extremely hard at the library and garden gate. Teagan for beginning to use calming techniques to self regulate.
	Robin	Daniel	For great interactions with the public in the community.
	Magpie	Lawrence	For increased independence in following recipes.
	Wagtail	Colby	For his self regulation.
	Yorkgate	Theo	For really beginning to adapt to staying in the flat.
	Kingsgate	Harry J	For taking part in the "my family" activity.

## Holiday Food Vouchers - Free School Meals

*Supported by*



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*Holiday food vouchers will be sent out by email for pupils who receive free school meals on **Tuesday 20th May.***

*If you have any issues accessing your voucher and would like it printed and sent home, please contact the office.*

*If your child currently doesn't receive free school meals but you think they should, you can check eligibility and apply [via this link](#)*

*\*\*All pupils in reception - year 2 automatically receive free school meals, this is called universal free school meals, however unless you have applied online with KCC you won't be eligible to receive holiday vouchers.\*\**

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## Our Residential Provision



**This weeks Residential Standard is Standard 9: Good quality sleeping accommodation is provided for children. It is well organised and responsive to children's needs and is managed with ongoing assessments of risk (which should be documented) and the findings acted upon to reduce risk for all children. Accommodation gives children appropriate privacy, taking into account sex, age and any individual needs. Where children share a bedroom, they are able to express a preference about who they share with. To minimise disruption the school should aim to avoid mixing accommodation arrangements for children on longer placements and those on short breaks.**

All of the children have their own bedrooms which they have personalised with a theme of their choosing, including soft furnishings, bedding, paint colour and pictures which they have chosen. The bedrooms are furnished with good quality tough furniture and we have recently purchase a large amount of furniture to ensure we are giving our residents the best possible facilities. The allocation of rooms has been thought about and different sex groups have their rooms allocated in different areas of the provision, with the girls on the top floor (penthouse suite!). There are also extra measures in place to allow privacy such as separate toilets and washing facilities for the different sex groups. Although they also have lots of time together in communal areas. The communal areas of the flats are furnished and decorated to a high standard. Any maintenance issues that are found and highlighted as needing works to be done, is done so in a timely manner and to a high standard. We have recently purchased air conditioning units to put in some of the residents bedrooms, as the age of the building and the skylight windows sometimes make the rooms either too hot or too cold!

We don't accommodate any short breaks within the school, this reduces the anxiety for those who stay with us for the week as they don't see others leaving after a short stay.

Please see the link to our website where you can see our [STATEMENT OF PURPOSE](#). It has lots of photos and information.

This week the flats have been engaging in activities where they benefit from sensory stimulation.

On wednesday the flats joined together in the sunshine for some outdoor play. We had bubbles, a parachute, trampolines and sensory bean bags. All of the equipment enhanced their sensory experience, and promoted cognitive development.

By incorporating sensory elements into our outdoor play, we encourage our students to explore their senses more, promoting a sense of freedom and independence. As well as this, it provided opportunities for social interaction and communication. Some of our students engaged with one another, encouraging each other to hold onto the parachute so that the ball would stay on, whilst others enjoyed talking about the kite flying in the sky, others interacted with one another by one student making the bubbles and another popping them!

Kingsgate flat focussed on families as well this week, the students completed individual family houses (who lives in my house activity) which they then discussed with peers, naming who their family members are, and whether it was their mum or brother etc. The students were really proud of their family houses!

Lastly to work towards our independent living, the students have been making their own drinks and supper, however on Thursday to celebrate kindness day we challenged the students to ask and make a peer a drink instead. The students did an excellent job, and felt happy when receiving their drink from their friend.

Next week, we are hoping to take a trip to the park (weather permitting) to play in the play area and collect some pine cones. As it is world bee day on the 20th we are going to make pine cone bumble bees to hang on the tree in our horticulture area.

Have a lovely weekend

The residential team













## **Sun Safety: Keeping Our Children Safe in the Sun**

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the warmer months upon us, it's a great time to remind ourselves of some simple yet essential steps to keep our children safe and protected from the sun. While sunshine is vital for our well-being, too much exposure can be harmful, especially for young and sensitive skin. Here are some practical tips to help ensure our children enjoy the sun safely:

### **1. Apply Sunscreen Regularly:**

- Choose a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30.
- Apply generously 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours, especially after swimming or sweating.

### **1. Stay Hydrated:**

- Encourage children to drink plenty of water throughout the day to prevent dehydration.
- Keep a reusable water bottle handy and refill it regularly.

### **1. Dress for Protection:**

- Opt for lightweight, long-sleeved clothing, and wide-brimmed hats to shield the skin and face.
- Sunglasses with UV protection can help protect young eyes from harmful rays.

### **1. Seek Shade:**

- Encourage play in shaded areas, especially between 11 am and 3 pm when the sun's rays are strongest.
- Consider using umbrellas or pop-up tents during outdoor activities.

### **1. Be Sun Smart – Lead by Example:**



- Set a positive example by following sun safety practices yourself. Children are more likely to adopt these habits when they see adults doing the same.

By taking these simple steps, we can ensure that our children stay safe, happy, and protected while enjoying the sunshine. If you have any concerns or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to the school office.

Stay safe and enjoy the sunny days ahead!



*1 - Spotlight on Kayla*

My name is Mikala, but most people call me Kayla

I have been working at Stone Bay for almost a year - it's gone by so fast!

I work as the Parakeet class teacher

The thing I love most about working here is here are so many things! Every day is different; the children are amazing; the fact that every member of staff always gives 100% trying to ensure the children are happy and feel safe, whilst learning important life skills... I could go on, but safe to say there's no place I would rather be than Stone Bay! I love it here 😊

## Our Vision, Mission & Values



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*Our school vision is to provide an **outstanding, nurturing, learning environment**, where all our pupils can achieve their full potential and progress to lead happy and fulfilling lives.*

*Our mission is to provide each and every pupil with the best possible education, delivered in an environment that is supportive, caring and safe. **"Getting it right for every pupil"***

*At Stone Bay we focus on **Evolving Excellence** in all that we do, working towards making our school the best it can be for pupils, staff and families. We are creating lasting **Trust** with all our stakeholders, **Empowering** each other to learn and grow. By adhering to policies and clear processes we ensure **Fairness** and transparency in our decision making and actions, whilst ensuring we are **Collaborating** with others and always looking for ways to help each other to deliver excellence for our pupils.*

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[Click here for our term dates](#)

Meaningful May 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Do something kind for someone you really care about	2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do	3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small	4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together
5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why	6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful	7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why	8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today	9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today	10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times	11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder
12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you	13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture	14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature	15 Do something to contribute to your local community	16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better	17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful	18 Send a hand-written note to someone you care about
19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful	20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable	21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger	22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about	23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of	24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today	25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why
 26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful	27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others	28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight	29 Today do something to care for the natural world	30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost	31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future	

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together